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LETTER DATED 12 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GUINEA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its meeting held at the United Nations, New York, on 11 September 1996, took note of the letter of the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the President of the Security Council, dated 6 September 1996 (S/1996/730), and reviewed the current situation regarding the elections to be held in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 14 September 1996. The OIC Contact Group also reviewed the presence on the ground in Bosnia and Herzegovina of monitors and observers from OIC countries as well as other independent international observers.

The OIC Contact Group echoes the conclusions of the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina that the necessary conditions for free and fair elections within certain parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially within the entity of the Republika Srpska, have not been met. The OIC Contact Group shares its grave concern that the conditions are not even marginal but completely unreceptive to the free expression of the voters' democratic and human rights within the Republika Srpska. These basic human and democratic rights are being trampled on and diversity is not tolerated. What is clearly seen is that the non-Serbian and opposition parties have been and are being prohibited from partaking in the political process in the Serbian entity. Furthermore, the media in this entity has also been firmly under the control of the authorities and has continued to play a negative role. The process of refugee return, as guaranteed by the Dayton/Paris Agreement, is not being allowed to begin. While ordinary citizens are deliberately denied freedom of movement, internationally indicted war criminals continue to be free in defiance of the Dayton/Paris Agreement and relevant Security Council resolutions. What is more disturbing is the fact that the very authorities that are responsible for these abuses are also organizing the elections within the Republika Srpska.

The OIC Contact Group expresses its serious concern about the aforementioned conditions, which are not conducive to holding free, fair and legally valid elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in the Republika Srpska entity.

The OIC Contact Group will, hence, conduct its own evaluation and assessment of the elections to be held in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 14 September 1996 and particularly in the Republika Srpska, based on the reports received from the OIC monitors and observers and those of the independent international monitors and observers as well as media reports on the elections, and shall inform the Security Council of its evaluation. The OIC Contact Group requests that the Security Council undertake an objective and thorough review of the elections, in order to determine whether they were free and fair or not, taking duly into account the evaluation and assessments made by the OIC and other regional organizations, as well as by independent monitors and observers of the elections.

The OIC Contact Group further notes that under Security Council resolution 1022 (1995), sanctions cannot be terminated unless the elections are certified to have been "free and fair".

I would be grateful for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mahawa Bangoura CAMARA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the OIC Contact
Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina